

STANDARDIZED BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY

On January 19, 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a [final rule](#) to implement a provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) that requires all fishery management plans (FMPs) to establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in a fishery. The final rule establishes requirements and provides guidance to regional fishery management councils (RFMCs) and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce regarding the development, documentation, and review of such methodologies, commonly referred to as standardized bycatch reporting methodologies (SBRMs). The implementing regulations provide that, each RFMC in coordination with NMFS, must conduct reviews of its FMPs for consistency with the rule. All FMPs must be consistent with the rule by February 21, 2022.

At the [November 2020](#) and [June 2021](#) meetings, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies conducted reviews of its FMPs for consistency with the final rule. Since the June meeting, Council staff has worked with advisory bodies (ABs) to further examine FMPs and develop draft FMP amendment language for review by the Council. Additionally, Council staff has provided draft amendment language for the Highly Migratory Species FMP to assist the development of potential changes or clarifications (Agenda Item E.5, Attachment 1).

At the September 2021 meeting, the Council is scheduled to identify any potential fishery management plan actions to bring FMPs into compliance with the final rule.

Council Action:

Continue Consistency Review, Identify Changes Needed for Further Action, and Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Fishery Management Plan Amendments, as Necessary

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E5, Attachment 1 – Draft Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.5 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Continue Consistency Review, Identify Changes Needed for Further Action, and Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Fishery Management Plan Amendments, as Necessary